

HIGH FOOD PRICES UP TO MIDDLEMAN

Counsel Hepburn, of Food Administration Says Only Solution Lies With People

SELF-RATIONING IS URGED

Charles J. Hepburn, chief counsel for the United States food administration in Pennsylvania during its recent operations, talked in a general way today on the present exorbitant prices and the possible methods of forcing them to a lower level.

Distribution System Defective

"There are anywhere from two to half a dozen persons who handle the article, and each one raises the price so that he may reap his margin of profit. The difficulty is largely one of distribution. The system is defective, and until it is reformed, the farmer's price can be delivered directly from producer to consumer, the latter is at the mercy of unscrupulous wholesalers and commission merchants known as middlemen."

Farmers Sold Direct

"At these markets, as you will recall, farmers sold their products along the curb at prices very much below those demanded by corner grocers. The people bought directly from the producer at these markets. The grocers were compelled to ask high prices because they were buying through commission men who paid little and asked much for the produce they handled."

Under our national constitution

"Congress in normal times has no power to limit profits or fix prices. As I have stated, the food administration during the war period did not fix prices. It controlled them, however, in large measure by fixing the margin of profit to be levied by the dealer."

Naturally food prices might be expected

"Naturally food prices might be expected to go somewhat higher than heretofore, though not to the outrageous figure demanded for certain articles. Labor is costing more, overhead charges, even in the case of the farmer, are much greater, but there is nothing in the situation to warrant prices that are being demanded for certain commodities."

To answer that question definitely

"To answer that question definitely would require thought and careful research. It cannot be answered off-hand. If you can discover any combination of men, or firms, banded together to increase or maintain high prices on a food commodity, you have ample redress in the criminal law."

Generally speaking, I should say

"Generally speaking, I should say that outside the prosecution of a combination or trust to maintain high prices you have little redress under existing law. When a state or government undertakes to say at what price a man must sell the product of his labor you are walking over quicksand."

"There is another phase of this question

"There is another phase of this question that cannot be overlooked in any discussion of price-fixing either by limitation of profits or directly. That is the cost of maintaining a force adequate for such a work."

"The United States food administration

"The United States food administration was an organization of volunteers. Its members received no compensation, but even under the conditions the necessary expenses amounted to a vast sum. If Congress or the state Legislature undertook to operate such a system with paid employees the cost would be enormous. It is a question if its maintenance would not far exceed the financial benefit derived by the people from its operation."

Chance for Corruption Great

"Besides, the opportunities for corruption under such conditions would be very great. I say this because of the opportunities that existed in the food administration for such a thing and the means of a bribe which were ready to hand."

Rear Admiral Adolph Marx

Gloucester, Mass., July 12.—Rear Admiral Adolph Marx, retired, died suddenly yesterday at a hotel where he was a summer guest. Following his retirement in 1910 he had lived in New York city and came here for the summer two weeks ago.

Cost Reduction Up to People, Says Hepburn

Charles J. Hepburn, counsel for the state food administration, placed most of the responsibility for high food prices on the "middleman."

"I am of the opinion that in the final analysis the remedy must lie with the people themselves. Two or three meatless days a week in every family would have a decided effect in reducing the price of meat. A movement among the women of Philadelphia last year in the matter of the high price of eggs, in which they declined to purchase eggs and left them in the hands of the dealers, speedily caused a drop in prices."

20 Firemen Believed Killed as Walls Cave

Continued From Page One They held about fifteen men. Many others were on the roof.

Walls Give Way

Suddenly the front wall cracked, and gave way down the center. The men on the ground shrieked a warning to their comrades on the walls and ladders, but there was no time to get out of the way of the avalanching tons of wood and brick.

To add to the horror of the catastrophe

To add to the horror of the catastrophe the great mass of ruins blazed up furiously. The firemen who survived were helpless to aid their friends buried under the blazing debris. Streams of water were turned on the ruins and men risked their lives—firemen and policemen as well—to dash in and try to get some comrades whose arm or leg, protruding from the wreckage, showed where his crushed body lay.

Huge Crowds Gather

Soon after the fire began crowds thronged to the scene of the fire. It was during the dinner hour and thousands of people were on the street. The police had not been able to establish fire lines when the walls fell, and there was a panic among the spectators.

Ambulances at Scene

Ambulances had hurried to the scene of the fire as soon as the successive alarms had shown its seriousness. The White-clad ambulance surgeons, with stimulants and hypodermics, clambered through the ruins looking for the injured. As soon as a man was found he was immediately extricated, and a crew of firemen set to work digging him out.

As fast as the injured could be released

As fast as the injured could be released they were put in ambulances and rushed off to hospitals. Patrols from all the station houses nearby helped the ambulances carry the wounded to hospitals. Several children were reported to have been among the injured, being caught by the falling debris as they crowded close to the fire.

This fire recalls the great Freelanders

This fire recalls the great Freelanders Company fire at 114, 116 and 118 North Bodine street, on December 21, 1910, when fifteen firemen were killed and fifty injured.

At this blaze, Fireman Glazer was rescued

At this blaze, Fireman Glazer was rescued after being for fifteen hours imprisoned under the ice-covered ruins.

Liquor Hoarder a Suicide

Cumberland, Md., July 12.—With mind inflamed from excessive drinking from his stock of liquor hoarded since July 1, Benjamin Pearson, thirty-eight, committed suicide early today at the home of his sister, Mrs. William Reiber, Lonsdale, Md. He himself in the temple with a bullet.

MARINE STRIKERS REPUDIATE I. W. W.

Declare Radicals Have Nothing to Do With Demands for Better Conditions

VICTORY PREDICTION MADE

Coupling their claim that the entire Atlantic coast is now tied up with the accusation that propagandists are trying to weaken the force of their demands by attempting to connect them with the I. W. W., local officials of the International Seamen's Union declared today that one New York firm has already agreed to their demands.

This firm is the Brooks Steamship Company. One of their freighters, the Ashburn, is now in Philadelphia, and she will move this afternoon, en route.

"The Ashburn is the first ship to be able to get out of port since Wednesday," declared Frank Lilly, agent for the union, at their headquarters, 138 South Second street. "From Portland, Me., to Port Arthur, Tex., this strike has its grip on the Atlantic coast. It is now our sole link with the rest of the world."

Cooks Join in Strike

"I was in conference with representatives of the United States Shipping Board, including Vice Chairman Scott, at New York yesterday. We did not get anywhere, but I have reason to believe that will come. When the board agrees two-thirds of the independent owners will be swung at the same time."

"We have 20,000 firemen alone to fight this battle with. Cooks and stewards are joining in. As fast as vessels enter harbor their crews walk out. Perhaps they know by wireless that there is a strike on. At any rate they don't lose any time."

With regard to a letter said to have been sent to Washington by the I. W. W. headquarters in New York, urging the wiping out of the strike by agreement with an international marine workers' union, Lilly said the story was pure propaganda.

"It is no longer debatable in Pennsylvania that a citizen can engage in any recreation or amusement on Sunday in his own back yard or grounds, provided he does not disturb his neighbors. It is likewise well settled that a number of citizens desiring a community backyard or place of recreation, can form a community club and obtain a charter from the commonwealth for the same and engage in recreation and amusements in their backyards or places of recreation on Sunday."

Attorneys Belmont and Bessley

Attorneys Belmont and Bessley contend that this is analogous to the situation in which the park commissioners, in fact, the regulation of the park for the athletic enjoyments of the community of Philadelphia. As there are no neighbors to disturb there, that phase is settled.

The rules and regulations of the clubs

The rules and regulations of the clubs in the country, the attorneys go on, "are made by their board of managers and are not subject to the supervision of the park commissioners."

Only one Sunday prohibition has ever

Only one Sunday prohibition has ever been made by the commission and that concerns only the running of "swings, carousels and similar amusements."

George Wharton Propper, counsel for

George Wharton Propper, counsel for the park commission, will also file a brief with the judges, with the same purpose of intervention. This brief, it is understood, will conform strictly with the legal points which he pressed during the recent argument.

He will claim that the absolute con-

He will claim that the absolute con-tenders in the game, and not the park commissioner, can lawfully be sued for violation of the blue laws and the only proper legal procedure is fine or arrest for these people, if they really can be accused of any violation.

CHILDREN GET 8-HOUR DAY

Mills Grant Decrease in Working Hours to Avoid Paying Tax

Mill owners of this city will grant an eight-hour day to all children under the age of sixteen to avoid a tax of 10 per cent on their net profits, imposed by the new internal revenue act.

Henry J. Gideon, chief of the bureau

Henry J. Gideon, chief of the bureau of compulsory education, was notified yesterday by many manufacturers that they would reduce the number of working hours for the minors in their employ. Mr. Gideon has several hundred telephone calls from factory proprietors, who said they had read of the announcement that the Treasury Department intended to enforce the law in spite of the decision of Judge Boyd, of North Carolina, that the child labor provisions are unconstitutional.

The employers told Mr. Gideon

The employers told Mr. Gideon they could not discharge the children because of their inability to obtain other help. The law does not forbid the employment of children for more than eight hours, but provides for a tax that is almost prohibitive.

"Y" CASE IN COURT AGAIN

Arguments in Election Case Will Be Heard Monday

Arguments before the special master in the case, John M. Scott, will be heard Monday on the exceptions presented by both sides to Mr. Scott's report on the recent election in the Y. W. C. A. in the controversy for the board of managers.

Mr. Scott decided the election

Mr. Scott decided the election favored the "outs" or insurgents, or the faction opposed to the regime of Mrs. Joseph Hudson, the president of the organization. After Mauser Scott passes on these exceptions, his report will be filed with the court, and a day fixed for argument before the court as to whether or not the findings should be approved.

ORANGEMEN HOLD ANNUAL OUTING AND PARADE



Members of the Ladies' Loyal Orange Association of Philadelphia and vicinity parading in celebration of the Battle of the Boyne anniversary

CALL FAIRMOUNT PARK PUBLIC'S 'BACK YARD'

Taxpayers' Counsel Say Franchise of Resort Area Entitled to Sunday Privileges

TO FILE EXPLANATORY BRIEF

Fairmount Park is the public's "backyard."

"Claiming that citizens of Philadelphia have just as much right to indulge in Sunday games in Fairmount Park as any individual has in his own backyard, counsel for the twelve taxpayers who desire to intervene in the suit brought by churches and Sabbath associations, announced today that they would file a brief setting forth their contentions."

The brief, in part, says:

"It is no longer debatable in Pennsylvania that a citizen can engage in any recreation or amusement on Sunday in his own back yard or grounds, provided he does not disturb his neighbors. It is likewise well settled that a number of citizens desiring a community backyard or place of recreation, can form a community club and obtain a charter from the commonwealth for the same and engage in recreation and amusements in their backyards or places of recreation on Sunday."

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ORANGEMEN MARCH TO PICNIC GROUNDS

"Wet" and "Dry" Factions Hold Separate Celebrations of Boyne Anniversary

Despite the fact that prohibition rules

Despite the fact that prohibition rules for the time being, the "wet" and "dry" factions of Orangemen's organizations marched separately today in their celebration of the 229th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne.

The "wet" and "dry" controversy

The "wet" and "dry" controversy has nothing to do with the difference of opinion which exists among the two bodies at present, it was explained, and they have different views regarding other policies.

The faction formerly known as the

The faction formerly known as the "wets" marched from Broad and Pine street shortly after 10 o'clock. There were about 2000 in this organization and four bands supplied the music.

A band of Scotch Highlanders was one

A band of Scotch Highlanders was one of the attractive features. This branch of Orangemen went to Woodside Park, where the day will be spent in a program of sports and other amusements.

EDGAR SHOEMAKER IS FOUND IN HOTEL WITH WRISTS CUT

Recovering From Loss of Blood, Rutledge Man Denies Suicide Theory

See Increase in "Speakeasies"

"The advent of prohibition is a very serious thing in many ways. I am a prohibitionist, but, nevertheless, I realize that it is a great task that the Department of Justice is confronted with. I look for a large increase in 'speakeasies.' Bootlegging will thrive in all other vicious things with which the authorities will have to cope."

"Our force of trained investigators,

"Our force of trained investigators, which is now small, should be largely increased, for it is no small task that will have to be undertaken. Whether or not prohibition will bring in an increase in the use of morphine, cocaine and other narcotic drugs, I do not know, but do not believe the steady increase of the sale of whisky will materially increase the number of drug addicts."

Declaration was made by Mr. Kane

Declaration was made by Mr. Kane if Judge Dickinson sustained the demurrer, United States Attorney General Palmer would immediately take an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, a course which the Department of Justice has entitlement to under the law.

"I believe the 'saloonmen in this

"I believe the 'saloonmen in this district are glad to know that the beer test case is to be adjudicated in this district," Mr. Kane concluded.

With but one arrest in Philadelphia

With but one arrest in Philadelphia since June 30 for selling whisky, although agents of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, of which Todd Daniel is the head, and trained detectives of the city police force, detailed by Superintendent Robinson have secured the city for violators, the government authorities realize the stupendous task that they are faced with.

LAUNCH TANKER TODAY

Standard Oil Officials to Witness Ceremonies at Sun Yards

The George H. Jones, a big tanker built for the Standard Oil Company, will be launched at the Sun Shipbuilding Company this afternoon at half past one. The sponsor will be Miss Mildred M. Jones, the daughter of George H. Jones, president of the Standard Oil Company in New Jersey, after whom the ship is named.

The boat which is to be launched is a sister ship of the S. B. Hunt, which was launched from the Sun yard on June 14. It is 430 feet long; fifty-nine feet wide, thirty-three feet three inches deep and has ten and one-half knots speed. It has a capacity of 10,000 tons, or more than three million gallons of oil.

About 200 officials and invited guests from the Standard Oil Company are expected to be present at the launching, after which luncheon will be served in the company's dining rooms. President John G. Few, Vice President Robert Haig, Manager J. K. Graham, and Secretary and Treasurer E. S. Reitzel will meet the guests at the station and escort them in automobiles to the shipyard, first visiting the company's building operations at Sun Village and Sun Hill. The Sun Ship Yard, under the leadership of Jerry Grill, will play at the launching.

TROOPS BACK FROM WAR AND HOMEWARD BOUND

ARRIVED

President Grant, at Boston, with the 83rd Infantry Regiment composed of Michigan National Guard and selective service men, arrived at New York, from St. Nazaire, with 2500 New England, New York, Ohio and Illinois conscripts. Rose Schram, secretary to the mayor of Detroit, led a delegation in greeting the Michigan men who fought in the Argonne front in France. There was a total of 214 officers and 2299 enlisted men on board the transport, Brigadier General William P. Jackson, who returned as a casual officer, commanded the troops.

DUE TODAY

Officers, at New York, from Brest, with 3049 privates and 200 officers, arrived at New York, from St. Nazaire, with 2042 army personnel. Private, at New York, from Marseilles, with 1289 troops, from Marseilles with 850 soldiers. Captain Philbrick, at New York, from Brest, with 2676 army personnel.

QUE TOMORROW

St. Louis, at New York, from Brest, with 1442 army personnel. Private, at New York, from Brest, with 714 army personnel.

BOOTLEGGING BOOM IS FEARED BY KANE

Prosecutor Predicts Big Increase in "Speakeasies" if Brewers Win in Test Case

PREPARE TO MAKE ARRESTS

Bootlegging will thrive and all of the 1500 saloons in Philadelphia could open for the sale of 2.75 per cent beer, without fear of prosecution, if the demurrer in the Berger and Engel Brewing Company beer test case is sustained, it is the opinion of United States District Attorney Kane.

"It would be futile for the Department

"It would be futile for the Department of Justice to seek to arrest the saloonkeepers in the event of a decision from Judge Dickinson adverse to the government. It is very unlikely that any United States commissioner before whom saloonkeepers charged with violations were arraigned would hold them in view of the decision of the United States District Court.

"The sustaining of the demurrer in

"The sustaining of the demurrer in the beer test case would place the brewers and bootleggers in the enviable position of having warrant for the manufacture and sale of 2.75 per cent beer for the months intervening before the United States Supreme Court hears and decides the appeal pending from the New York courts."

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AIRSHIP 360 MILES OFF IRELAND'S COAST

R-34 Approaches Port on Return Voyage From Mineola to Scotland

ONE OF ENGINES IS USELESS

By the Associated Press London, July 12.—The British dirigible R-34, on her return flight from the United States, was approximately 360 miles west of the Irish coast at 11 a. m. Greenwich meridian time today (7 a. m. New York time), according to a message received by the wireless press.

Her position at that hour was given as 52 degrees 30 minutes north latitude and 19 degrees 30 minutes west longitude.

Because of adverse weather conditions in Scotland, the R-34 has been advised by the air ministry to land at Pulham, Norfolk. The airship is expected there before noon tomorrow. A big gale is reported blowing over Scotland and the strong wind, it is said, would make dangerous the entrance of the R-34 into her shed at East Fortune. There is a dirigible shed at Pulham.

The position of the R-34 at 6:30 o'clock a. m. Greenwich mean time (2:30 o'clock New York time) was 52 degrees 15 minutes north latitude, and 23 degrees west. The speed of the airship was at that time 35 knots an hour. At 2 o'clock this morning, Greenwich mean time (10 p. m. New York time), the R-34 reported that her position was 51 degrees and 21 minutes north latitude and 30 degrees west longitude. At that time the craft was making forty knots an hour.

One Engine Breaks Down

The